

# Paratroopers build Forward Operating Base in Bermel

Story and photo  
By Sgt. Douglas DeMaio  
20th Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE BERMEL, Afghanistan – A new Forward Operating Base being built in the Paktika Province is giving the coalition and the government of Afghanistan a footprint in the Bermel district and bringing the battle to the front door of insurgents.

Platoons from A Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Airborne), began building FOB Bermel April 27, and progress is rapidly being made.

“It seems like we are doing something worthwhile here,” said Sgt. William Underhill, 3rd Platoon, 1-508th Inf (Abn).

Afghan National Army and police, along with Soldiers from 1-508 Inf (Abn), are using the base as a staging ground for operations throughout the remote district to bring security and stability to the previously ungovernable region.

“We’re looking to fight a successful counterinsurgency by going on the offensive and establishing a secure presence in the area so the government of Afghanistan can begin to function in the district,” said A Co. commander, Capt. Joseph Geraci.

Geraci said the government of Afghanistan had previously tried to govern the region, but the police in Bermel had been murdered by insurgents along the boarder region of Pakistan.

“What we’ve done here is put a big shock on the enemy’s position here,” Geraci said about setting up the FOB.

The FOB’s perimeter is already complete and permanent structures are being built to house the security forces who patrol the area.

Primarily, the Afghan Army and police



**Pfc. Todd Arney, A Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Airborne), assists local Afghans in building a barrier around Forward Operating Base Bermel, which the unit is helping to construct. The barrier consists of two metal and fabric walls with dirt inbetween.**

will patrol the district, allowing the 1-508 Inf (Abn) Soldiers to provide training and logistical support for the host nation forces.

“Mostly we are still in the process of teaching them how to patrol this area on their own,” said Pfc. Todd Arney, one of Underhill’s Soldiers.

Even though host nation forces will be

patrolling the district, the 508th will be in the area, so the animosity surrounding foreigners not normally welcomed to the tribal area will need some work, Arney said. When the 508th arrived to the area, villagers where reserved at first, but many of the villagers have warmed up to the security and service the infantrymen are

providing to the community.

“The people know why we are here,” Arney said. “For the people that don’t want us here, we haven’t yet had a chance to change their mind. If we do get to stay here permanently, people are going to change their minds. A lot of people already have.”



**Command Sgt. Major Jeffrey Hartless describes the ambush on his convoy in late April. It was the excellent reaction to the well-planned attack that prevented multiple casualties.**

## Lion Shake ‘06 scheduled for Nov.8

By Catie Bertoldi  
22nd Area Support Group S3

This year’s annual 22nd Area Support Group force protection/anti-terrorism exercise, Lion Shake ‘06, is scheduled for Nov. 8.

This exercise will be another step forward in our efforts to prepare the Vicenza military community in the event of an emergency.

Not only does this exercise enable U.S. emergency responders and their Italian

counterparts to practice, improve and demonstrate their abilities in the event of a serious incident on this installation, but it will involve the participation of the Ederle community as a whole.

The 22nd ASG will be using various channels to get this information to you. For example, this is the first of a series of articles that we will be placing in the *Outlook* to help you and your family prepare for the day’s events.

## 2-503d Soldiers fend off ambush during week of heavy fighting

Story and photo  
By Pfc. Jon H. Arguello  
173d Brigade Public Affairs

DEY CHOPAN, Afghanistan—In an intensive week of successful combat operations, the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry (Airborne) came away with several victories that demonstrate not just the warfighting capabilities of Task Force Rock’s paratroopers, but their composure under fire.

As Battle Company was climbing mountains and chasing insurgents, Chosen Company won a victory in a large clash.

A convoy carrying the battalion

commander and sergeant major was ambushed and engaged in a fierce firefight that left one American injured and unknown number of injured insurgents in the Zabul province.

“It was the worst I’ve seen in 22 years of service,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Hartless, the battalion sergeant major. “From the first Gulf War to my last deployment in Iraq, I’ve never been in a firefight like that.”

The convoy was moving between units and as the roads got rough, the vehicles became separated by more than 100 meters. At that point, the two parts of the convoy were attacked simultaneously by several rocket propelled grenades (RPGs).

“I yelled, ‘IED! IED!’ but it was actually an RPG,” Hartless said.

“Right after the command sergeant major said ‘IED,’ a hail of bullets came down,” said Spc. Edwin Laboy-Cortes.

As paratroopers dismounted, they were immediately fired upon by insurgents using small arms and then machine guns. Bullets ripped through the Humvee’s roof, blowing out gauges and riddling the truck’s interior frame with bullet holes.

“We got out of the vehicle and bullets were flying through it,” said Hartless. “We

See Ambush on page 4

### San Bortolo Hospital changes phone numbers

**Effective immediately, all telephone numbers at the San Bortolo Hospital beginning with the prefix “99” have changed to the prefix “75.”**

**For example, the old Patient Liaison Desk number of 0444-99-3300 is now 0444-75-3300.**



# Mediating workplace disputes workshop offered to community

Equal Employment Opportunity Office  
Press Release

Conflict is inevitable in any organization, but unless properly managed, unresolved conflict can cause low morale, low productivity, high personnel turnover and high absenteeism.

To minimize these unwanted results, the first step in managing conflict in the workplace more effectively is to ensure that all employees have options in resolving conflict.

One option is through Alternative Dispute Resolution – **Mediation**.

Mediation is a voluntary and confidential process where a neutral third-party (mediator) helps employees come together to talk and decide how to end their dispute.

The mediators do not take sides or make a decision for the parties. The mediator enables and empowers the parties to reach an agreement that will work for them.

The 22nd Area Support Group Equal Employment Opportunity office, is pleased to offer an Installation Management Agency-Europe training opportunity: Mediating Workplace Disputes.

This course is a highly interactive training that emphasizing lectures, supervised practical exercises and small group discussions.

Sessions include:

- Alternative Dispute Resolution methods available to resolve disputes
- The mediation process
- Role of the mediator
- Essential mediation skills of neutrality,

effective communication; appropriate questioning, summarizing and negotiating techniques

- Settlement agreement writing
- Mediation ethics

This course is open to civilian, military and Italian work personnel who want to learn more about handling conflict and mediating workplace disputes.

Selections are made on the following basis:

- Attendee’s willingness to participate in IMA-E-EEO’s shared neutral Alternative Dispute Resolution program which may consist of mediating at least one mediation (eight hours) per calendar year.
- Willingness to attend additional mediation refresher training, when announced.
- Possess good oral communication skills and ability to work with diverse groups.

Funding for travel, per diem and lodging is the responsibility of the requesting organization and not the mediator’s installation.

This is a five day course and will be held Aug. 15-19, at a location to be announced later. There is no tuition fee, but travel and per diem will be borne by all nominating organizations.

The deadline to submit nomination forms is June 15. Submit forms to *richard.medina@setaf.army.mil*.

For more detailed information about this course, please contact Richard Medina, 22d ASG EEO Office, at 634-7914 or off post at 0444-71-7914.

## Made to last forever Up to your ears in alligators

*For the next 37 weeks, the 22nd Area Support Group Chaplain’s Family Life Office, in partnership with deployed SETAF and 173d Airborne Brigade chaplains, is publishing a series of devotional articles based on the best-selling book, “A Purpose Driven Life,” by Pastor Rick Warren.*

*The intent of these articles is to offer the deployed Soldiers and their family members a devotional meditation which can be used as weekly discussion, and to deepen their spiritual connection during their separation.*

*Warren’s book is a 40-chapter spiritual journey that seeks to transform your answer to life’s most important question: “What on earth are we here for?” Knowing God’s purpose for creating you will reduce your stress, focus your energy, simplify your decisions, give meaning to your life, and, most importantly, prepare you for eternity.*

*The book is a blueprint for living in the 21st Century – a lifestyle based on God’s eternal purposes, not cultural values.*

**Chaplain (Maj.) James Sheil**  
*Vicenza Community Catholic Pastor*

“This life is not all there is.”

It might be hard to keep this in mind as we face the many things continually clamoring for our attention and energy.

Yet, as important as these things may be, there is so much more.

The great religious traditions remind us that this life is transitory, and is a preparation for the fullness of life, or, perhaps the emptiness of life, that comes later.

We reach the fullness of life when we are prepared to move into our full potential.

We reach the emptiness of life when we choose to lay aside all that distracts us and keeps us from knowing the peace for which we are created.

In the military setting, if we lose our focus on the mission and how to accomplish it, we will be defeated.

In sports, if we lose our focus, we will lose.

In life, if we lose our focus on eternity, we will be, at best, confused.

Philosophers talk about being transparent to eternity.

When we have an awareness of what is going on in our life as a reflection of and preparation for eternity, we enter into a much fuller appreciation of life and all that is in it.

There is an old saying that; “When you are up to your ears in alligators, it is hard to remember that your original intention was to drain the swamp.”

Most of our life we are up to our ears in alligators. We need to do what we can to gain a sense of who we are. This requires discipline and dedication, and begins with a choice.

A worthwhile question is, “How does what I am doing now prepare me for eternity?”

Is there anything I need to start doing?

Is there anything I need to stop doing?

Where is what I am doing today taking me?

## Community Action Council

This forum is to discuss issues that affect the community.

If you have an issue that you would like to submit, visit the 22nd Area Support Group Web site at *www.22asg.vicenza.army.mil* and click on the Community Action Council link. This link provides you the opportunity to review issues that have been previously submitted and responded to by post agencies. There is also a form available for you to submit any new issue you would like addressed.

If you have questions, call 634-5222 or 0444-71-5222 from off post. The command encourages you to identify yourself when submitting a CAC issue in order to be able to answer your concern directly.

Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$2.50 per hour, per child for children ages 6 weeks through kindergarten from 8:45-11:15 a.m. Preregistration is required. Children will be cared for in the Child Development Center, Building 395. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services Central Registration. Call 634-7219 or stop by their new location in Davis Family Readiness Center.

The next CAC meeting is Wednesday at 9 a.m. in the Ederle Theater.

**Issue:** *I have concerns for families trying to get appointments with the pediatrician at the Vicenza Health clinic. I work in special education at the elementary school and since January 2005, I have had at least three families who have children with special needs who have been unable to obtain an appointment with the pediatrician.*

*I realize the clinic has been very busy getting the soldiers ready for deployment but let’s not forget our children.*

**Response from the U.S. Army Health Clinic-Vicenza:** First, the Vicenza Health

clinic staff apologizes to any and all of our beneficiaries who have had appointment problems or contacting their physician. The health clinic commander has already acted on this issue, and others, by appointing a new supervisor at the clinic front desk and appointing new personnel.

Next, the commander opened more appointments and instituted a NOD (Nurse of the day) who can address any patient issue not perceived as not running smoothly. Front desk staff are now prepared to take any patient issue through telephone consults directly to the physician for a response within 72 hours.

Most importantly, we value our children equally as Soldiers. New pediatricians are arriving and they will be able to augment the great pediatric care our current pediatrician and family physicians have been delivering. This will also open even more appointments for adults in Primary Care.

Finally, for any patient issue or concern there is always a patient representative available. Jo Penhallegon engages all patient concerns with compassion and kindness and may be reached at 634-7952.

**Issue:** *There is no place for children who are going into Kindergarten this fall to spend the summer. The Child Development Center stops providing care for children who have completed kindergarten, and School Age Services won’t let children in until they have attended first grade. Is there a place for kindergarten-age children to go this summer?*

**Response from Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation:** The Child Development Center does continue to provide full-day care for the “graduated” Kinders in the summer until their transition to School Age Services, approximately two weeks prior to school restarting in the autumn.

During their week-long transition to SAS, they will spend decreasing amounts of time

in the kinder room, just as our preschoolers will be transitioning into the Kinder room that week.

The ‘new’ first graders will take the last field trip of the season as SAS kids and will be fully integrated at that time. All Kinders have first priority on entering SAS.

**Issue:** *During the last snowstorm I stopped in the Military Police desk at the gate nearest the chapel to ask if they’d please open it due to the pile-up of cars waiting to exit the main gate.*

*The Italian MP’s told me they could not open until 4:30 p.m.*

*After sitting in traffic one hour I called the MP desk and asked if they could please open other gates so people could leave.*

*I also suggested they make an announcement on the PA system so people would know not the sit in the long line at the main gate. I was told later by a friend the chapel gate was open after 4:15 p.m.. I finally exited close to 5 p.m. and was home at 6:30 p.m..*

**Response from Office of the Provost Marshal:** During that snowstorm, the MP’s established Traffic Control Points on Olson Avenue in an attempt to facilitate movement off-post. Gates 1 and 2 were open at the time.

The problem we experienced trying to get off post was that traffic off post was at a standstill. The Italian public was trying to get home at the same time.

As stated earlier, the traffic off post was at a standstill, opening any other gates for example Gate 3 (the gate used by school buses) (on to Aldo Moro) would not have helped as traffic was at a standstill.

**Issue:** *Sometime ago there was a sentiment presented to the community actions council regarding the administrative processes and coordination for the permesso di soggiorno.*

*The Community Action Council*

*responded with clear and precise insight but the response had no information regarding the coordination of this document for civilians living outside of Vicenza province.*

*I live in the province of Verona. When I first embarked upon this journey to acquire my soggiorno back in 2002, I went to the 22nd Area Support Group liaison office to initiate the process but received no support.*

*I then went to the NATO base in Verona and discovered they did indeed process the soggiorno for Americans. Now that NATO has closed in Verona, who works the soggiorno issue in Vicenza?*

**Response from G-1:** We have worked an agreement with the Verona Questura to process soggiorno requests for customers residing in the Verona area. In essence, we will advise/ review the soggiorno applications here in Vicenza. Customers who live outside the Vicenza province will take the application to the Joint Headquarters South (Caserma Li Gobbi) in Verona (not to the Questura).

From the entrance gate, the customer will be escorted to the Carabinieri administration office staff, who will then take the application and process it with the Questura.

**Issue:** *Most of the crosswalks on post are bare visible and it makes crossing the street difficult.*

**Response from Directorate of Public Works:** Approximately 20 crosswalks have been repainted, and the remaining crosswalks will be repainted when construction along the affected streets is finished.

However, the crosswalks on Caserma Ederle are painted with the same type of paint used on Italian streets and highways. Because of the high volume of traffic on post, the paint quickly fades.

The DPW is investigating a longer lasting marking material so that the crosswalks will not need to be repainted as often.



# Sponsors are responsible for misconduct of their family members on, off post

**22nd Area Support Group  
Public Affairs**  
*Press Release*

Living in Italy can be exciting and fun, but there are rules that must be adhered to.

A juvenile was recently caught shoplifting by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Security.

Parents and juveniles should know the severe ramifications of such misconduct. When civilians (juveniles or adults) commit criminal or regulatory offenses, either on or off Caserma Ederle, their installation support may be revoked or permanently suspended.

In more serious cases, the family can be barred from the installation and returned to their home of record. Sponsors are responsible for misconduct of their family members.

While living in Italy, U.S. civilians are governed by special international agreements – including the NATO Status of Forces Agreement or “SOFA.” U.S. civilian employees and family members accused of criminal offenses are always subject to Italian jurisdiction. Italian courts have jurisdiction over all parties in civil actions, regardless of nationality or military status.

You may sue and be sued in Italian courts for such matters as failure to pay debts or breach of lease.

When the criminal act or regulatory offense is committed on

Caserma Ederle, the civilian misconduct officer will immediately contact the sponsor. The 22nd Area Support Group Civilian Misconduct Officer will take appropriate action for offenses committed by community members that are command sponsored or are receiving logistical support.

**Individual Logistic Support**

Civilians who accompany the U.S. forces are authorized individual logistic support. This support is conditional upon the civilians’ good behavior.

The authority to revoke or suspend this support has been delegated to the garrison commander because he or she is responsible for upholding the morale, welfare, safety, and good order within the garrison geographic area.

An offender’s privileges may be suspended or revoked throughout the entire European theater. Privileges that may be suspended or revoked include:

- ♦ Entry to one or all military installations within the European Command.
- ♦ Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) sales facility privileges.
- ♦ Commissary privileges.
- ♦ Participation in Morale, Welfare, and Recreation activities.
- ♦ Community Club privileges.
- ♦ Check-cashing privileges.

- ♦ Government quarters.

Government quarters may be terminated if civilian sponsors or family members of a sponsor are involved in illegal use of quarters or misconduct contrary to safety, health, or morale.

- ♦ Ration privileges.
- ♦ Class Six privileges.
- ♦ U.S. Forces privately owned vehicle driving privileges.

Incidents of civilian misconduct will be resolved as quickly and informally as possible.

The civilian misconduct officer will process actions thoroughly and fairly, acting in concert with military police officials, host-nation authorities, and investigating officers.

The command is in the process of developing a Juvenile Misconduct Review Board.

**The Last Straw**

There are many levels of punishment for civilian misconduct. None are pleasant and all levels of punishment can be avoided by following the rules.

In the most severe misconduct cases, the commander will consider returning the entire family to the United States.

It’s simply not worth it. Misconduct, criminal or regulatory offenses will not be tolerated by the command. Don’t ruin your beautiful tour in Italy by not playing by the rules.

## AAFES makes changes to ID checks

**Vicenza Post Exchange**  
*Press Release*

Effective immediately, the post exchange will no longer have ID checkers at the front of the store. AAFES’s responsibility is to ensure that only authorized patrons purchase in the store because of the tax-free status of our merchandise.

This policy will continue to be enforced at the registers where customers will be required to show their ID card.

Although the policy determining who is an authorized patron is lengthy, briefly put; all US military ID cardholders and NATO forces ID cardholders are authorized to shop at the PX.

The PX will still require that guests of authorized patrons be signed in and, as before, guests need to remain with the ID cardholder and are not authorized to purchase. The log will continue to be located at the front of the store and we ask customers to please adhere to this policy.

## Caserma Ederle road work update

Throughout the month of May, Olson Avenue, from the post chapel to the Ederle Inn, will experience ongoing paving operations, as will the post exchange parking areas.

From May 27 through June 4 traffic will be restricted to one lane from the Post Office to the Ederle Inn.

Motorists driving past the

post office toward the Ederle Inn will be required to continue driving down past the sports field and come back along 9th Street-the road that runs in front of the U.S. Army Health Clinic-Vicenza and Fitness Center.

There will be no parking on Olson Avenue near the post office and parking at the Vicenza Schools will be extremely limited.

These dates are subject to weather conditions, naturally if we experience rain, the road may be closed longer.

The command asks that community members use caution while driving or walking in these congested areas and be alert to construction vehicles and pedestrians.

## Vicenza High School students inducted into National Honor Society

**By Desiree Henry**  
*National Honor Society sponsor*

Vicenza High School’s annual induction ceremony for the National Honor Society 2005-2006 school year was held May 16 in the Ederle Theater.

To be eligible for membership consideration in the National

Honor Society, students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 percent.

Additionally, potential members must meet high standards of leadership, service, character, and citizenship.

Members of the sophomore and junior classes were evaluated by the faculty council.

Congratulations to the following students who were selected for membership this year: Luke Beachamp, Jessica Boydston, Crystal Buhler, Jessica Buhler, Megan Gafford, Grace Pemberton, Adam St. Vincent, and Zackery Williams.

## PCSing, traveling with pets

**Southern Europe Veterinary Detachment - Vicenza**  
*Press Release*

When it is time for you to permanently change stations, or if you are taking your pet back to the states for a vacation, please call the Veterinary Treatment Facility at least 45 days in advance to schedule out-processing for your pets.

If you are PCSing to a rabies-free island (Hawaii, Guam or England), please contact us immediately! You may need three to six months of preparation to accomplish the move.

All pets must meet the following requirements:

- Rabies vaccinations must be not less than 30 days current and not more than 11 months old.
- Our veterinarian must see your animal and issue a Health Certificate within 10 working days of your departure. In the event that our veterinarian is unavailable, the VTF will direct you to an authorized Italian veterinarian in the area.
- Obtain a postal pre-payment slip from the VTF and pay for

the export document at an Italian post office. It costs about 20 Euros per animal. Be sure to save your receipt.

- Once you have completed these steps, take the Health Certificate, your pet’s records and the **postal receipt** to the U.L.S.S. No. 6 building located on Via Camisano 66. The representative is only available weekdays from 9 a.m.-noon.

Do not take your animal for this appointment.

The Veterinarian Treatment Facility is located on Longare. Office hours are: Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8 a.m.-noon, and 1-4 p.m.

Thursdays from: 1-4 p.m. for over the counter sales only.

Fridays from 8 a.m.-noon, and 1-4 p.m., for over-the-counter sales and limited appointments.

Office visits, sick calls, and surgeries are by appointment only. The VTF is closed on holidays, weekends, and last working day of the month for inventory.

For information, call the VTF at 635-4841 or off post at 0444-71-4841.



Make moving easy for you and your pets with advance planning.



# Quick reaction to ambush keeps troop’s injuries to a minimum

## Ambush from page 1

didn’t think of closing the doors until a little later.”

“I couldn’t see the lead vehicle while we were engaged in our firefight,” said Hartless. “Hankins was the closest to the door and I told him to get the handset.”

Spc. Brian Hankins jumped into the Humvee to retrieve the radio. Ten minutes into the firefight the realization that communications between the vehicles was temporarily disrupted would lead the sergeant major to believe the worst.

“I couldn’t get anybody on the radio. I thought they were all dead,” Hartless said.

The paratroopers were under heavy fire and everyone reacted to the fire with fire of their own. The exchange of heavy fire didn’t allow for instant communication.

“The fire was so intense, it took everyone we had to fire,” said scout Staff Sgt. Randall Austin. “It became shoot first and communicate later. We thought they were dead and they thought we were dead.”

Soon the convoy took a casualty.

“I was behind the truck, shooting next to Captain Wright. He stopped shooting back and moaned - then he turned to me and said ‘I’m hit’ and went down,” said Laboy-Cortes. “I started treating him. He was coherent and calm the whole time.”

Capt. Benjamin Wright began calling in his own 9-line report. The 9-line, a radio report describing the injury and whether or

not medevac is necessary, was finished by Laboy-Cortes

The smoke plume from insurgents firing RPGs gave away the enemy’s position. This allowed Staff Sgt. William Terry to lay down a barrage of MK19 fire on the location which suppressed the enemy fire.

“I couldn’t believe how well the Soldiers reacted to the ambush,” Hartless said. “The ambush site was well-planned and ranged, but the Soldiers were incredible.”

“‘Wojo’ was on it,” said Austin, referring to Spc. Thomas Wojtowicz. “Before I knew what was going on, ‘Wojo’ was firing the .50 cal and Walker was feeding him ammo. They went beyond my expectations.”

“I saw the two explosions from the RPGs and I started firing,” said Wojtowicz, from Chicago. “I knew what area the fire was coming from but I couldn’t see anybody, so I’d light up that area and the fire would stop but it would start coming from another area.”

No matter how much training the Soldiers have had, considering the circumstances of the ambush, their performance was remarkable.

“When I asked Hankins to get the radio, he didn’t hesitate,” said Hartless. “He dove into the Humvee with bullets flying and grabbed it without hesitation. The quick reaction by Laboy was also amazing. Even Captain Wright’s response to his own injury was outstanding.”

“I was worried but I knew I had the



**Bullet holes riddle this Humvee caught in an ambush on the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry (Airborne) battalion commander’s convoy in late April. Photo by Pfc. Jon Arguello**

biggest gun out there so I had to keep it up,” Wojtowicz said.

When the decision was made to take the casualty out of the area, the sergeant major devised a plan to put the HMMV in reverse with the casualty inside, while Laboy-Cortes and the sergeant major would run along the truck for cover.

“It was the longest 100 meters of my life,” Hartless said.

Eventually, contact with the enemy was broken, close air support arrived and the enemy retreated into the mountains with their wounded.

Regardless of how well they fended off the attack, Task Force Rock’s paratroopers

have a better understanding of why it is important to stay alert.

“I take my job very seriously, I stay alert and pay attention to the details,” said Wojtowicz.

“You really have to go out there and do what you’re supposed to be doing,” Austin explained. “They are dead set on killing us, but that’s not going to happen.”

Whether it was the amount of training, the airborne frame of mind or the composure of the Soldiers on that day, there is no doubt that all of their quick, selfless actions played a part in bringing home every Soldier on the convoy back to base alive.

# Afghan orphanage, school benefit from adoption by Soldiers

## Story and photos

**By Sgt. Adrian Schulte**  
*CJTF-76 Public Affairs*

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan— One of the easiest and most effective ways U.S. Soldiers can achieve the respect, and perhaps friendship, of the Afghan people is through the children of the country.

Troops from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Combined Joint Task Force-76, got a chance to make a good impression with young Afghans May 9 during a trip to an orphanage and all-girl school.

The troops visited the side-by-side installations in Charikar, a village near Bagram Airfield, bringing with them donations such as school supplies, toys and clothing from various individuals, groups and organizations from their home stations and the states.

The school and orphanage had been adopted by the previous Headquarters and Headquarters Company troops that the CJTF-76 troops replaced in March.

“We decided to head out there and check it out,” said 1st Lt. Tim Benedict, executive officer HHC, CJTF-76, who helped orchestrate the event. “[We] went out two weeks ago to find out what they needed, how many kids they have, and to see what we could do for them.”

Benedict also linked up with base operations on Bagram to get a bigger picture of what schools and orphanages in the area needed help the most.

“These are two that are most in need while we are here,” Benedict said. “Possibly we can pick up more down the road.”

Along with humanitarian supplies, the headquarter Soldiers also hope to help the school officials patch up some of the damaged areas of the building.

Benedict said he also hopes to bring a medical mission out to the school and orphanage allowing the children to receive some basic health care.

The Soldiers will visit the school and

orphanage an average of twice a month, Benedict said. Sometimes with just the core members of the headquarters platoon, other times with other Soldiers from the headquarters.

Many Soldiers working in the joint operations center on Bagram rarely get to venture beyond the wire to see the effects of their work in the headquarters.

These trips by the headquarters company allow those Soldiers to interact with local citizens and take part in a mission.

“The reason I open it up to everyone in HHC is because people who might just be sitting at a desk the whole time and never get to get out and see Afghanistan, see what we are doing to help these people,” Benedict said. “I want to give them a chance to come along and feel like they are contributing.”

The chance to interact with Afghans, especially young ones, is not lost on the headquarters Soldiers.

“I liked the way the kids were excited to see us and what we were able to do for them – the little we get to do,” said Spc. Nadia Avila, a tactical communications specialist who works out of the joint operations center.

“The most rewarding thing is the look on their faces, and the things they ask,” she said. “You realize how much you take for granted.”

Benedict hopes to give some of these children an opportunity they may have not had before.

“Just that whenever they have something new, it’s something they didn’t have before,” Benedict said. “Obviously, we want to make their lives better but that is going to take years.

“But anytime we see their faces lighten up because they got a new toy or anytime there is a positive impression from an American or the foreign community in general, anything that we can do to make a lasting impression in these children, it’s all worth the effort,” said Benedict.



**Master Sgt. Joseph Issertell, CJTF-76 Joint Visitors Bureau, hands out shoes to young Afghan girls during a humanitarian mission to an all-girl school and ophanage in Charikar village near Bagram Airfield May 9.**



**Chief Warrant Officer Janet Martin, CJTF-76 Property Book officer, recieves a flower from a young Afghan orphan during a humanitarian trip to an all-girl school and orphanage in Charikar village near Bagram Airfield May 9.**



# Darby broadcaster is AFN-Europe Soldier of the Year

Story and photo  
By Chiara Mattirola  
Camp Darby Public Affairs

Spc. Christopher Meadows, AFN-Livorno Operations NCOIC, won not only the AFN Soldier of the Quarter, AFN Soldier of the Year for AFN South, but he also won AFN Soldier of the Year for Europe.

When his station commander, Staff Sgt. Joyce Costello, nominated Meadows for AFN Soldier of the Quarter, Meadows wasn't confident he could win, but as he always does, he gave it his best effort.

"It felt good to me that Sergeant Costello had enough confidence to nominate me," said the married father of three. Meadows has only been in Livorno for a year, coming from the 27th Public Affairs Detachment, Fort Drum, New York. "From that moment, I started studying seriously every evening to be prepared. I knew the board questions were focused on the knowledge of the regulations," said Meadows.

"When I won the AFN South Soldier of the Year, I really wasn't expecting it. When I won the AFN Soldier of the year for all Europe, it was even a bigger surprise," he said. "I really think there are plenty of other junior enlisted AFN Soldiers in Vicenza and in Germany who are more deserving of this recognition.

"I think what played an important role in my selection was the fact that I really always



Spc. Christopher Meadows, AFN-Livorno Operations NCOIC at his workplace. Meadows was recently awarded AFN Soldier of the Year for both AFN South and AFN-Europe.

strive for the best I can do," said Meadows. "I may not be the best broadcaster, but I always strive to do my best – I demand a lot from myself," Meadows added.

"If he doesn't know something, he will do research to acquire the knowledge," said Costello. "He is always engaged in bettering himself and learning to become a leader.

"I nominated him for his qualities of

character and integrity," she said. "Meadows is also blessed with a wife who supports him. He's not just a good Soldier and an extraordinary father and husband, but he tries to strike a balance between meeting the mission requirements and taking care of his family.

"It is rewarding to know my hard work paid off," Meadows said.

# Yellow Ribbon room opens doors on Camp Darby

Story and photo  
By Chiara Mattirola  
Camp Darby Public Affairs

The Family Readiness Center, also called the Yellow Ribbon Room, opened May 17 with an open house.

The FRC is located in the yellow building in front of the Darby Theater. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

"Our mission is to provide individuals with means that strengthen communities, promote self-sufficiency and mission readiness by transforming and building strong and ready military families," said Evelyn Watkins, acting Mobilization and Deployment Program manager.

"The Family Readiness Center is a resource center and provides a meeting place for family members and family readiness groups," she said. "Everyone is welcome to

come and take advantage of our readiness resources."

The center is equipped with four computer stations with web cams and Internet access to help maintain contact between deployed servicemembers and their families. Children are welcome here as there is a TV and VCR to entertain them while parents are at the center, according to Watkins.

May is National Military Appreciation month and this year Camp Darby is also recognizing military spouses.

"We get caught up in the daily activities that characterize the modern military life. We often overlook opportunities to express our gratitude to those who support us and make untold sacrifices in support of the military profession," said Lt. Col. Charles Leaming, Installation commander during the grand opening of the FRC.

"Frequently, the importance of our spouses' contribution and sacrifices are overlooked, taken for granted, or go unappreciated. While service members have faced increased deployments and longer family separations, spouses' remain behind to hold down the fort. Through dedication and care they meet the challenges of job, family and home while their loved one is absent," said Leaming.



Lt. Col. Charles Leaming (right), Camp Darby Installation commander, presides over the opening of the Yellow Ribbon room, which is also the Family Readiness Center on Camp Darby. The center is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. for assistance to family members of deployed servicemembers.

# SETAF civilian workers lauded

The Outlook  
Press Release

The annual SETAF Civilian Recognition ceremony was held May 11 in the Ederle Theater.

This year Maj. Gen. David Zabecki gave the Commander's Award for Civilian Service to Jean F. Lindquist, SETAF G4.

Other awards included:  
Length of Service award - Five years:

- Michele Ballard, 22nd Area Support Group, Directorate of Logistics
- Length of Service award -10 years
- Vera Frater, SETAF SGS
- Svetlana Langford, SETAF SGS
- Patricia Hawkins, Office of the Staff

- Judge Advocate
- Marta Cinello, SETAF Comptroller
- Douglas Yocum, OSJA
- Length of Service award - 20 years:
- Col. Mark Oswald, OSJA
- Barbara Kraemer, SETAF G1
- Liliana Poloni, SETAF G1
- Douglas Askins, SETAF G3
- Training
- Donald Hiles, SETAF G3 Plans and Exercises
- Ivo Toniolo, SETAF Headquarters Support Company S4
- Length of Service award - 25 years
- Robert Krcelic, SETAF G3

# Camp Darby volunteers honored

Camp Darby Public Affairs  
Press Release

The 2005 Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony took place at the Camp Darby Community Club April 29.

This year there were 224 registered volunteers in the Installation Volunteer Program who reported a total of 16, 272.25 hours worked in various places on post.

The hours put in by the volunteers saved the United States government an approximated value of \$285,799, which was represented by a big check presented at the end of the ceremony to the Lt. Col. Charles Leaming, Installation commander.

"Thank you, volunteers of Camp Darby for all your hard work and selfless dedication. you have truly made a difference to the Darby Community" said Corinne Jordy, Army Community Services Officer to the crowd.

"Simply put – we couldn't have done without the selfless commitment of these wonderful people " said Lt. Col. Charles Leaming, Installation commander.

- Congratulations to:
- 22nd ASG Youth of the Year Award: Megan Thompson
- Exceptional Volunteers: Angela Bishop, Paul Bishop, Andre Cameron, Jennifer Carpenter, Shelley Davidson, Kim Dianich, Colter Fernandez, Andrew Hallenbeck, Erin Heck, Daniela Johnson, Kurt Umlauf, Melissa Wilde, and Linda Willhoite.

- Volunteers of the year
- Military:Andre Cameron
- Civilian: Linda Willhoite
- Family Member: Kim Dianich
- Youth: Colter Fernandez

# American Red Cross celebrates volunteers

Story and photo by Laura Kreider  
Outlook Staff

The American Red Cross 2005 Volunteer Recognition ceremony was held May 13.

The guest speaker was Col. Ronald Keen, U.S. Army Health Clinic-Vicenza, who ended his tribute by repeating an anonymous quote saying, "Volunteers are not paid because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."

Among the volunteers recognized was Leda Stauffer (see photo below). Stauffer received the Clara Barton Volunteer Leadership Honor Award and the First Level Award for Employee Excellence in Support Service. The Clara Barton Volunteer Leadership Honor is awarded for meritorious guidance in volunteerism for an individual who has served in a number of leadership positions over a period of years.



# Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

## Celtic music festival

The 2nd Annual Celtic Music Festival will be held in Venigallia, a suburb of Montecchio Precalcino, Friday through Sunday.

Events start Friday at 6 p.m. with the opening of ‘The Roads of Veneto’ exhibition organized by the ‘Bissari’ archeological group

At 7 p.m. the Celtic restaurant opens; at 7:30 p.m. in the ‘village’ watch the ritual of the lighting of the bonfire

At 9:30 p.m. ‘fighting’ between warriors; followed at 10 p.m. with a performance by the Tara School of Irish Dancing.

Friday night’s final event is the midnight lighting of the bonfire.

Saturday and Sunday events start at 11 a.m.

The Celtic restaurant opens each day at noon closes after lunch and reopens at 7 p.m.

The fight between warriors is at 9 p.m.

Entrance fee for adults is 6 Euro, and children who are shorter than the King’s sword enter free.

The program is in Italian only at the Web site: [www.venigallia.com](http://www.venigallia.com). Montecchio Precalcino is about 12 km north of Vicenza.

## Verona Exhibitions

In Verona an exhibition for collectors is taking place Friday-Sunday in the exhibition grounds.

“VeronaFil’ is the 104th exhibition to buy or exchange stamps, postcards, franked envelopes, coins or medals.

Going on at the same time is the ‘Verona Mineral Show,’ where you can see minerals, fossils, books, equipment and precious stones.

The exhibitions are open Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.-2 p.m., and entrance is free.

To reach the exhibition grounds leave the autostrada at Verona sud and follow signs for the ‘Fiera.’

## Wineries open

More than 16 wineries in the province of Vicenza will open their doors for wine tasting and tours round their establishment Saturday and Sunday, in towns such as Arcugnano, Longare, Breganze, Gambellara, Nanto and Montebello. Visitors can enter from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

For a complete listing visit the

Web page [www.](http://www.movimentoturismovino.it)

[movimentoturismovino.it](http://movimentoturismovino.it). click on ‘le regioni,’ then Veneto or Toscana; find ‘cantine della regione.’

## Veg and fruit festivals

The town of Castegnaro, located after Longare will hold their ‘*Festa dea Sialesa*’, (dialect for cherry festival), everyday through Sunday.

The festival opens in the early evening hours. Enjoy the food stands, rides for children, dancing and, of course, cherries for sale.

Sunday evening there will be a firework display.

The town of Peseggi, province of Scorze’, Venice, will hold its 36th Annual Pea festival Friday through June 5.

This weekend the following events take place: Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m. food stands will open, of course serving dishes with ‘*piselli*’ (peas); at 8:30 p.m. music by *Stefano e I Nevada*.

Sunday at 11 a.m. watch a flag waving exhibition and hear musicians from the town of Mestre. At 11:15 a.m. the vegetable market opens; at noon food stands open; at 4 p.m. an equestrian exhibition; at 6 p.m. watch a performance by a dance group.

Peseggi is 62 km northwest of Vicenza, toward Noale.

Like Italian bread? The be in Piazza Liberta’ in Bassano del Grappa Sunday from 9 a.m.-sundown. Different types and forms of bread will be prepared for tasting or buying by the artisans of the Bassano bread bakeries.

## Noale in flower

The town of Noale takes *Corpus Domini* very seriously. On that day, which is Sunday, from the earliest hours of the morning, men and women meet up as planned on the road that lies between the two medieval towers of the town.

They bring with them thousands of flowers and tree scents gathered the days leading up to this.

They lay down sand and with great care sketch out the lines of a grand image; while others work to divide up petals and separate them in various baskets.

A great floral carpet takes shape – seven images with religious scenes, which are different every year; the carpet covers 160 meters,

a continuous spray of water holds the petals to the ground and keeps them fresh. The carpet remains on show to thousands of onlookers until dusk. At dusk, the religious retinue that carries the Eucharist in its triumph passes the length of the carpet, processing down the sides so as not to spoil this floral homage.

Noale is in the province of Venice and is located 57 km northeast from Vicenza.

## Markets

Sunday the antique market takes place in the town of *Piazzola sul Brenta*, east of Camisano. Held in the Piazza P. Camerini, its one of the largest and liveliest antiques markets in the Veneto region.

Open from 9 a.m.- 6 p.m., you’ll find over 500 exhibitors offering antiques and other merchandise.

If Piazzola is too far to go, the Sunday morning market in Camisano, with more than 200 stalls, is open from 8 a.m.-noon.

## Medieval event

There will be a historical parade with a horse tournament in the town of Grazzano Visconti, province of Piacenza, Sunday. The town was specifically built in the late 1800s to have all the characteristics of a perfect medieval town.

The day’s events include jousting on horseback by knights and contests of sword fighting and archery.

Events start at 10 a.m. and end at approximately 6 p.m.

Entrance fee is 8 Euro for adults and children under 14 pay 6 Euro.

Grazzano Visconti is located 11 km from Piacenza, and 180 km from Vicenza, and southeast of Milano.

## Festival of Fitness

The ‘Festival del Fitness’ in the city of Rimini’s Fiera complex runs Saturday through June 5.

Every sort of exercise is available, from yoga to golf, and tennis to aquatics. At this festival it is possible for the public to participate in any or all of the activities – it’s ‘the biggest gym in the world.’

Open Monday-Wednesday from 3-9 p.m.; Thursday through Sunday 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

The entrance fee is 20 euro and the ticket is valid for nine days.

commercial 06-221-57-7486 (in Germany).

Mail applications to USA IMA-E, ATTN: IMEU-MWD-C, Unit 29353, Box 200, APO AE 09014. Or e-mail forms to: [purple@ima-e.army.mil](mailto:purple@ima-e.army.mil), or fax forms to: DSN 370-8491, comm. 06-221-57-8491.

Spaces are limited. Applicants will be prioritized based on the sponsor’s deployment status and then by date of receipt of the application. Priority is given to children of currently deployed service members, followed by returned service members’ children and finally children of service members pending deployment. Selections will be made before the end of the DoDDS-E school year.

# Now Showing

## Caserma Ederle Theater

<b>May 25</b>	Diary of a Mad Black Woman (PG13)	7 p.m.
<b>May 26</b>	Million Dollar Baby (PG13)	7 p.m.
<b>May 27</b>	The Ring 2 (PG13)	7 p.m.
	Beauty Shop (PG13)	10 p.m.
<b>May 28</b>	Beauty Shop (PG13)	2 p.m.
	Hostage (R)	7 p.m.
	Hostage (R)	10 p.m.
<b>May 29</b>	Ice Princess (G)	2 p.m.
	Beauty Shop (PG13)	7 p.m.
<b>May 30</b>	Beauty Shop (PG13)	3 p.m.

## Camp Darby Theater

<b>May 27</b>	Miss Congeniality 2 (PG13)	7 p.m.
<b>May 28</b>	Robots PG)	7 p.m.

## Movie Synopsis

**DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN** - *Kimberly Elise, Steve Harris*. Devoted housewife Helen and powerful attorney Charles have a picture-perfect marriage. Just as Helen begins preparations to celebrate their 20th anniversary, Charles drops his bomb: he wants to divorce Helen for her best friend. Helen takes her belongings, and her wounds, back to her family, where a pot-smoking, gun-toting grandmother figure gives Helen the strength to heal.

**MILLION DOLLAR BABY** - *Clint Eastwood, Hilary Swank*. Frankie Dunn is a veteran boxing trainer who has devoted his life to the ring and has little to show for it; he’s estrangement from his daughter and a fighter he’s groomed into contender status has signed with another manager. Then, Maggie Fitzgerald enters his life and announces she needs a trainer. Frankie regards her as a dubious prospect, as she’s too old at 31, lacks experience, and has no technique. Finally won over by her determination, Frankie takes on Maggie, and as she slowly grows into a viable fighter, an emotional bond develops between them.

**THE RING 2** - *Naomi Watts, Simon Baker*. Sequel to the horror flick The Ring, Naomi Watts reprises her role as Rachel Keller, who, six months after the events of the first film, moves to Astoria, Ore., with her son, Aidan, to escape their memories of what happened in Seattle. When a few locals start dying, however, and a strange videotape reappears, Rachel becomes aware that the creepy Samara is back and after Aidan.

**BEAUTY SHOP** - *Queen Latifah, Alicia Silverstone*. Gina Norris is a long way from the Barbershop - she’s moved to Atlanta so her gifted daughter can attend a prestigious music school and made a name for herself at a posh salon. But when her egotistical boss takes credit for her work, she leaves the salon to open a shop of her own. Gina buys a rundown salon and inherits a motley group of headstrong stylists, a colorful clientele, and a sexy piano-playing electrician. It’s a rocky road to fulfilling her dreams, but you can’t keep a good woman down.

**HOSTAGE** - *Bruce Willis, Kevin Pollak*. Jeff Talley, a former LAPD hostage negotiator, has moved himself away from his failed career outside of Los Angeles, and away from his wife and daughter. When a convenience store robbery goes wrong in his turf, the three perpetrators move in on an unsuspecting family. But the family’s father has a secret which might compromise his kin, and one of the criminals is about to jump over the edge. Jeff Talley has to get everybody to survive the night.....if he can.

**MISS CONGENIALITY 2: ARMED AND FABULOUS** *Sandra Bullock, Regina King*. The story catches up with FBI agent Gracie Hart shortly after she successfully disarmed a threat against the Miss U.S. Pageant while working undercover as a contestant in Miss Congeniality. Having become a media celebrity following her heroic pageant exploits, Gracie has been spending more time lately at the salon than the shooting range, working the talk show circuit and promoting her book. When her friends, pageant winner Cheryl and emcee Stan, are kidnapped in Las Vegas, Gracie’s all-out efforts to jump back into action to save them puts her at loggerheads with the FBI top brass who don’t want to risk losing their mascot and fear she might not be up to the job anymore.

**ICE PRINCESS** - *Michelle Trachtenberg, Joan Cusack*. Casey has never quite fit in. Caught between her fantasy of becoming a championship figure skater and her strong-willed mother, who has her on the fast track to Harvard, she can only hope to be like Nikki, Tiffany and Gen - three elite skating prodigies who are ruthlessly competing on the US National circuit. Casey takes on the challenge of her life when she finds herself competing against the best to make it into the championship circuit and become a real “ice princess.”

Admission: Adults age 12 and over \$4, children \$2.  
The Ederle Theatre box office opens one hour prior to show time.  
Tickets to blockbuster shows are presold at Baskin Robbins.

# Free summer camp sign up deadline nears

## Installation Management Agency-Europe Press Release

The National Military Family Association has extended the application deadline for Operation Purple Camp to Friday.

**Operation Purple Camp Italia** for middle school youth (grades six to eight), is hosting one session July 17 to 23, and another session July 24 to 30. Both sessions are held at Camp Darby.

**Operation Purple Camp Bavaria** is for high school youth (grades nine to 12) with one session Aug. 21 to 27, and a second from Aug. 28 to Sept. 3. Both sessions are held in Garmisch, Germany.

The camps are specially designed for youth whose parents are currently deployed, are preparing to deploy, or have recently returned from deployment.

Each camp will feature team building, recreational and leisure activities, creative art projects, a motivational speaker, forums for emotional awareness and self-expression, and more.

Operation Purple Camp Italia and Camp Bavaria are designed to strengthen resiliency and coping skills through healthy social relationships.

Applications are available online at [www.mwr-europe.com](http://www.mwr-europe.com) or call IMA-Europe, MWR Child and Youth Services at DSN 370-7486,



Story and photos  
By Laura Kreider  
Outlook Staff

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage month and Caserma Ederle celebrated it in a big way May 19 in the Teen Center/Youth Pavilion.

“The theme this year is ‘*Bridging the Gap Between our Differences*,’” said Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Johnson, 22nd Area Support Group Equal Opportunity advisor to the crowd.

The event kicked off the *Subli*, a fun dance from the Philippines, where women carry flowered hats, while the men click bamboo castanets in time with the music. Next came the Vicenza Polynesian Reflection Dancers who performed several dances.

This was followed by songs and dances from China, Japan and Hawaii and a performance by the Vicenza Elementary School third-graders.

School Age Services children then got the crowd to participate in a *Bon Odori* dance.

*Bon Odori* is an event held during *Obon*, a Japanese Buddhist feast period. The Bon Odori originates from the story of a Buddhist disciple who envisioned his deceased mother in the Realm of Hungry Ghosts.

Greatly disturbed, he went to Buddha and asked how he could release his mother from this realm. Buddha advised to his disciple to perform some charitable act in memory of his mother. The disciple did this, and, thus, saw his mother’s release. Happy because of this result, the disciple started dancing with joy.

From this dance of joy comes *Bon Odori*, or Bon Dance, a time in which our ancestors and their sacrifices are remembered and appreciated.

“I thank all of our performers, the cooks, Renee Citron, DPW, Jamie from MWR office, the Soldiers in the 22nd ASG S-3 office, South of the Alps Dining Facility, 13th Military Police Company, AAFES, and all of the agencies in this community for their hard work,” said Johnson.

The event concluded with food tasting for the crowd, featuring items from Guam, Japan, Philippines, Korea, Samoa and Hawaii.

Closing out Asian Pacific American Heritage month is a martial arts demonstration Saturday at the post exchange sponsored by AAFES.



## **Cougar Sports**

Story and photos  
By Laura Kreider  
Outlook Staff

It’s been a ‘hit and miss’ season for the Vicenza High School Cougars Tennis team. Both Boys and Girls teams played well during their May 7 home matches against Naples. Luke Beauchamp beat Tim Ozimek with scores of 7-5, 3-6 and 6-1. Vicenza’s Rachel Bryan and Daile St. Vincent were the Girls Doubles winners against Ashley Martinez and Jesslyn Francisco with scores of 3-6, 6-1 and 6-2.



But the tables turned during their May 14 match when they played Aviano at home, with both teams losing.

May 14 the VHS Cougars Soccer teams played Aviano at home.

Despite some great plays and saves, both teams lost.

Cougar Boy’s thought they had a chance when the game was tied 2-2, but Aviano came roaring back to score the winning goal just before the game ended.

